

PETA Action Alert from April 2006:

Stop Lethal Poisoning Tests on Animals

Comments are due to the government by May 5.

Since 1927, companies and government agencies have been poisoning animals to death in hideously cruel “lethal dose” toxicity tests. Animal researchers do so knowing that if they did the same thing to an animal outside a laboratory, they could be arrested and charged with cruelty to animals. In lethal dose testing, groups of animals are forced to swallow, inhale, or absorb through their skin ever-increasing levels of a test substance until they die. Thousands of animals die this way every year in laboratories across the U.S. in the testing of pesticides, pharmaceuticals, industrial chemicals, and food additives.

Promising alternatives to this inhumane testing have been available for more than a decade. In 2000, PETA forced the federal government to convene an international workshop to review these non-animal, cell-based methods. The experts at that workshop concluded that the methods could be used immediately to reduce the number of animals killed in lethal dose testing and that—given the proper amount of funding and effort—the methods could be used to completely replace lethal dose testing in animals within two to three years.

So here we are—six years later—and what is our government doing? It is convening yet another workshop to study the use of the non-animal methods to reduce the use of animals in lethal dose testing. The announcement for the workshop *doesn't even mention* using the cell-based methods to replace the use of animals in lethal dose testing.

Government officials need to hear that you don't want any more animals killed in lethal dose testing in this country. Tell them that it is long past time to refine and implement non-animal cell-based methods and to stop poisoning animals to death.

Please send *polite* comments (they will be posted on a government Web site) by May 5:

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